

REMARKS

Claims 5, 7, 8 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 7 are amended and claims 1-4 and 6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Claim 5 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in canceled claim 6. Support for the amendments to claim 5 may be found at least at originally filed claim 6. No new matter is added by the above amendment. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments merely combine a dependent claim with its base claim, correct informalities, and amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Riggleman in the October 3, 2007 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 6-9 contain allowable subject matter.

III. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejects claims 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis for various features in claim 5. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claim 6 is canceled. Thus, the rejection as to claim 6 is moot. Further, claim 5 is amended to cure any antecedent basis issues.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,086,635 (Berndt). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is well settled that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. See MPEP § 2131. Because claim 5 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter previously recited in claim 6, as acknowledged by the Office Action, Berndt does not teach each and every feature presently recited in independent claim 5.

The Office Action mailed on January 1, 2007 concedes on pages 3 and 4, that the applied references of record fail to teach the subject matter previously recited in canceled claim 6. Therefore, Berndt fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claim 5.

Claims 7-9 depend from claim 5. Because Berndt fails to teach, disclose or suggest the features recited in independent claim 5, dependent claims 7-9 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 5 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

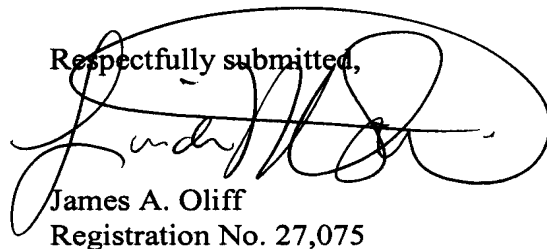
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/dqs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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